NEW SPECIES OF *PSYCHOTRIA* SUBG. *HETEROPSYCHOTRIA* (RUBIACEAE: PSYCHOTRIEAE) FROM SOUTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

The new species *Psychotria cauligera*, *P. fusiformis*, *P. hypochlorina*, and *P. paeonia* are described and illustrated. These are all shrubs or small trees found in wet forests in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru.

RESUMEN

Se describen e ilustran las especies nuevas *Psychotria cauligera*, *P. fusiformis*, *P. hypochlorina*, y *P. paeonia*. Todas son arbustos o arbolitos que crecen en bosques húmedos en Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador y Perú.

Among recent collections from western South America, the following undescribed species of *Psychotria* L. Subg. *Heteropsychotria* Steyerm. were represented. The characteristics of this group, its relationships, and its recognition have been documented recently by Steyermark (1972, 1974) and Taylor (1994, 1996a, 1996b).

Psychotria cauligera C.M. Taylor, sp. nov. (Fig. 1A–D). Type: ECUADOR. Pastaza: Veracruz, ca. 900 m, 18 Feb 1956, E. Asplund 19454 (HOLOTYPE: S).

Haec species a congeneris stipulis sat grandis ovatis vel ellipticis atque inflorescentiis (ut videtur caulogenis, vere terminalibus in ramulis vestustioribus) irregulariter ramosis, rhachidibus irregulariter flexuosis raceimformibus, floribus in glomerulos sessiles bracteis violaceis bene evolutis involucratos dispositis distinguitur.

Shrubs flowering at 0.25 m tall, to 2.5 m tall; stems quadrate becoming terete, glabrous or pilosulous to villosulous becoming glabrescent with age. Leaves paired; blades elliptic to obovate, 12–23 cm long, 8–13.5 cm wide, at apex acute to usually acuminate with tips to 1 cm long, at base acute to obtuse, drying papyraceous to chartaceous, adaxially glabrous, abaxially glabrous or hirtellous becoming glabrescent with age; secondary veins 16–20 pairs, spreading, broadly curved, extending to near margins or sometimes looping to interconnect in distal part of blade, with (0–)–1 weak intersecondary veins usually present between pairs of secondary veins, adaxially the costa and remaining venation plane, abaxially the costa prominulous to prominent, the secondary veins prominulous, and the mi-

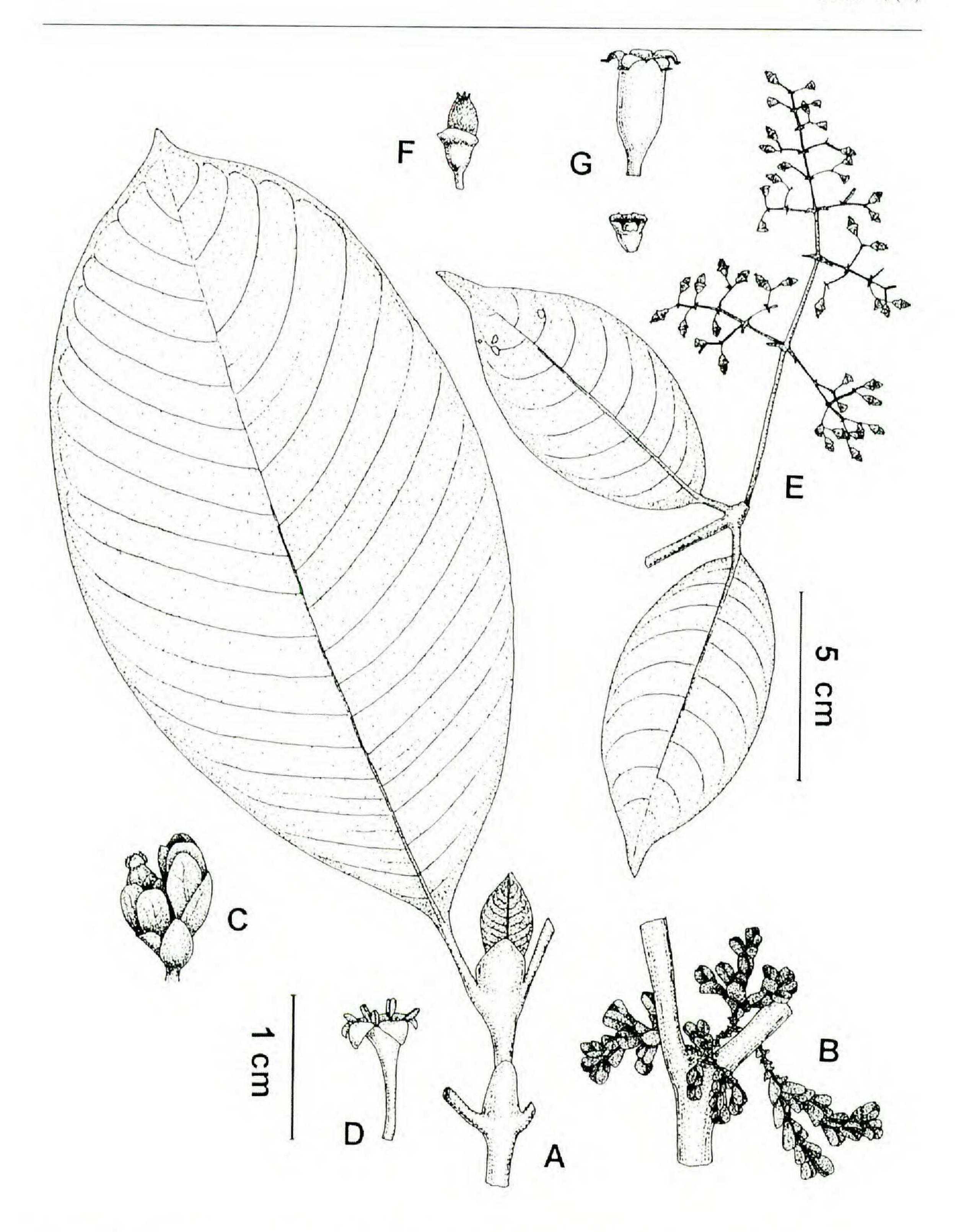


Fig. 1. A–D, *Psychotria cauligera* C.M. Taylor. A, Apex of leaf-bearing stem. B, Inflorescence borne on older stem. C, Fruiting glomerule, with fruit partially visible. D, Corolla. E–G, *Psychotria fusiformis* C.M. Taylor. E, Flowering branch. F, Flower bud. G, Flower at anthesis, partially dissected. A, B, E to 5-cm scale; C, D, F, G to 1-cm scale. A, B, based on *Øllgaard* 98491; C, D, based on *Asplund* 19454; E, F, G, based on *Lugo* 426.

nor venation plane to a little thickened; margins thinly to distinctly cartilaginous; petioles 1.5-5 cm long, glabrous or hirtellous becoming glabrescent with age; stipules glabrous or hirtellous becoming glabrescent with age, persistent at least with leaves, interpetiolar, ovate to elliptic, 12-30 mm long, obtuse to rounded, entire to ciliolate. Inflorescences terminal but overtopped by well developed stems from axils and appearing cauligerous, deflexed to pendulous, sessile or subsessile, corymbiform to rounded, 4–15 × 6–15 cm excluding corollas, with 3–6 pairs of developed secondary axes, with flowers sessile in glomerules of 3-7; bracts entire to ciliolate, elliptic to ovate, 4-6 mm long, glabrous to puberulous, obtuse to rounded or truncate, purple to lilac; flowers with calyx limb glabrous, ca. 1 mm long, divided nearly to base, lobes deltoid to ovate, acute to shortly acuminate, ciliolate; corolla tubular-funnelform, white, straight at base, externally glabrous, internally glabrous except for a sparsely pilose ring ca. 2/3 of length of tube above base, tube ca. 8 mm long, ca. 1 mm diam. near middle, lobes triangular, 2-2.5 mm long, acute, not thickened adaxially; anthers in shortstyled form ca. 1.5 mm long, partially exserted; stigmas in short-styled form ca. 3.5 mm long and positioned near middle of tube; disk ca. 0.5 mm high, annular. Infructescences similar to inflorescences (plants frequently flowering and fruiting concurrently); fruit ellipsoid, ca. 5 × 2.5 mm, somewhat flattened laterally, glabrous to usually puberulous, blue; pyrenes with 3-5 low rounded longitudinal angles or ridges.

Paratypes. ECUADOR. Morona-Santiago: Along narrow flood plain of Río Itzintza, Cordillera Cutucú, ca. 02°40'S, 78°W, Camp 1222 (NY, S); ridge between Ríos Itzintza and Chupiasa, Cordillera Cutucú, ca. 02°40'S, 78°W, Camp 1281 (NY, US); eastern slope and crest of main Cordillera Cutucú, Jorgensen CuJ-376 (NY); Cordillera de Cutucú, 25 km SE of Logroño, Madison & Coleman 2624 (NY); Cordillera de Cutucú, western slopes, along a trail from Logroño to Yaupi, in the general region, 02°46'S, 78°06'W, Madison et al. 3320 (US). Napo: S slope of Cordillera de Guacamayos, new road Cotunda-Coca, 3–5 km from turn-off of Baeza-Archidona road, 01°52'S, 77°48'W, Stein 3061 (MO). Pastaza: Puyo, ca. 2 km E of village, Asplund 19313 (S); 3.5 km N of Puyo, Fagerlind & Wibom 1074A (S); Tentiente H. Ortiz, 18 km from Puyo on road to Tena, 01°23'S, 77°57'W, Øllgaard & Balslev 9224 (AAU, MO, NY). Zamora-Chinchipe: Río Nangaritza, Colina Salada, ca. 2 km E of Destacamento Shaime, 04°22'S, 78°40'W, Øllgaard 98491 (AAU). Cantón Nangaritza, Río Nangaritza, Shaime, 04°20'S, 78°40'W, Palacios 6631 (MO, QCNE).

Distribution and Habitat.—In wet forest at 900–1,600 m, central to southern Ecuador. Collected in flower and fruit apparently usually concurrently, June, November, December.

This species is distinguished by its relatively large, ovate to elliptic stipules and inflorescences that appear cauligerous; these are terminal from older growth and irregularly branched, with the axes irregularly flexuous and racemiform; the flowers are borne in sessile glomerules and enclosed by

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well developed red-purple bracts. The specific epithet refers to the position of the inflorescences. The inflorescences appear to be perennial, though field observations of this feature are lacking.

This species is placed in *Psychotria* rather than *Palicourea* based on its corollas that are straight at the base and pubescent internally only above the middle of the tube; within this group, it belongs to Subg. *Heteropsychotria*. However, *Psychotria cauligera* is overall most similar in general aspect to *Palicourea grandistipula* (Standl. ex Steyerm.) C.M. Taylor, which can be distinguished by its capitate or subcapitate inflorescences that are borne at young stem apices, with the leaves, and tubular corollas that are swollen at the base and pubescence just above this basal swelling.

Psychotria fusiformis C.M. Taylor, sp. nov. (Fig. 1E–G). Type: ECUADOR. Pastaza: Colonia 24 de Mayo, side road to road Puyo-Puerto Napo, ca. 18–20 km from Puyo, 13 Sep 1968, H. Lugo S. 426 (HOLOTYPE: MO-4278937; ISOTYPE: GB).

Haec species a congeneris floribus pedicellatis patentibus atque corollarum fusiformium lobulis appendices lineares gerentibus distinguitur.

Shrubs and trees flowering at 3 m tall, to 12 m tall; stems quadrate to terete, glabrous. Leaves paired; blades elliptic to elliptic-oblong, 5-14 cm long, 2-5.5 cm wide, at apex acuminate with tips 5-13 mm long, at base cuneate to obtuse, drying papyraceous, adaxially and abaxially glabrous; secondary veins 7–11 pairs, extending nearly to or sometimes uniting weakly with margins, with 1-3 pairs of intersecondary veins usually present between pairs of secondary veins, adaxially costa and secondary veins plane to a little thickened, abaxially costa prominulous and secondary veins plane or a little thickened; petioles 5-25 mm long, glabrous; stipules glabrous, interpetiolar and also sometimes shortly united intrapetiolarly, interpetiolar portion ovate, 4-5 mm long, bilobed for ca. 1/4 of their length, the lobes ligulate to somewhat elliptic, often overlapping laterally, obtuse to rounded, entire. Inflorescences terminal, apparently deflexed, with peduncles 3-10.5 cm long; panicles pyramidal, $5-12 \times 5-12$ cm, with 5-8 pairs of developed secondary axes, with flowers pedicellate in dichasial cymules of 2-3 or solitary; bracts glabrous, triangular, acute, ciliolate, green, those subtending secondary axes 2-6 mm long, those subtending flowers 0.8-1 mm long; pedicels in terminal flowers of cymules and solitary flowers ca. 0.5 mm long, pedicels in lateral flowers of cymules 3-5 mm long; flowers with hypanthium obconic, 1-1.2 mm long, glabrous; calyx limb 0.5-1 mm long, glabrous, truncate to sinuate; corolla in bud tubular to somewhat fusiform and externally densely puberulous to shortly, stoutly papillose-pubescent, at anthesis infundibuliform, yellow, externally sparsely pubescent to glabrescent, internally glabrous, tube ca. 8 mm long, ca. 1 mm diam. at base and ca. 3 mm diam. at middle, lobes 5, triangular, 1.5-2 mm long, at apex

acute with a linear, glabrous appendage 0.2–0.5 mm long; *anthers* ca. 2 mm long, positioned ca. 2/3 of length of tube above base; *style* and *stigma* not seen; disk 0.3–0.5 mm high, smooth, annular. *Infructescences* and *fruits* not seen.

Paratypes. ECUADOR. Morona-Santiago: Puerto Santana, ca. 5–6 km from Shell-Mera, H. Lugo S. 448 (GB, MO). Napo: 9 km río abajo de Puerto Misahualli y 2 km al S de la cuenca del Río Chinguipino, 01°05'S, 77°36'W, Neill et al. 6053 (MO). Pastaza: road Puyo-Macas (under construction), 31 km from Puyo, 01°37'S, 77°50'W, Øllgaard & Balslev 9044 (AAU, F, US).

Distribution and Habitat.—Wet forest at 430–1,100 m, east-central Ecuador; collected in flower March, August, September.

This new species is distinguished by its interpetiolar stipules that are shortly bilobed with the lobes rounded to obtuse, spreading pedicellate flowers, and corollas that are densely puberulous to stoutly papillose-pubescent externally in bud and bear a short linear appendage at the apex of each lobe. The specific epithet refers to the distinctive shape of the corolla in bud. It belongs to Subg. *Heteropsychotria*; vegetatively and in many details of the flowers, this species is similar and probably related to *Psychotria caerulea* Ruiz & Pav. and *P. nautensis* Standley, both of which differ from *P. fusiforme* in having sessile flowers that are partially enclosed by their larger floral bracts.

Psychotria hypochlorina C.M. Taylor, sp. nov. (Fig. 2A–B). Type: PERU. Loreto: Prov. Maynas, Saboya, Río Pintuyacu, 03°50'S, 74°10'W, 150 m, 19 Apr 1986, R. Vásquez, N. Arévalo. & N. Jaramillo 7420 (HOLOTYPE: MO-5079650; ISOTYPE: GB).

Haec species a *Psychotria costanensis* Steyerm. et *P. cuatrecasasii* (Standley ex Steyerm.) C.M. Taylor inflorescentia subcapitata vel breviter semel-ramosa atque foliorum venatione minore abaxialiter invisibili distinguitur.

Shrubs and trees flowering at 3 m tall, to 8 m tall; stems quadrate becoming terete, glabrous. *Leaves* paired; *blades* elliptic to elliptic-oblong, 8–30 cm long, 2.8–14 cm wide, at apex acute to usually acuminate with tips 8–12 mm long, at base acute to cuneate or obtuse, drying chartaceous, adaxially and abaxially glabrous, when dry discolorous, adaxially dark, abaxially paler and yellowed; secondary veins 11–14 pairs, extending nearly to margins and then reticulating extensively, with 1–3 intersecondary veins present between pairs of secondary veins, adaxially venation plane or costa a little thickened proximally, abaxially costa prominulous and remaining venation plane or a little thickened; *petioles* 1–5.5 cm long, glabrous; *stipules* glabrous, interpetiolar and also shortly united intrapetiolarly, interpetiolar portion bilobed, between the lobes truncate to a little concave, 3–4 mm long, lobes triangular to narrowly so, 1–2 mm long, acute, entire. *Inflorescences* terminal, apparently erect, glabrous, subcapitate or branched once, with

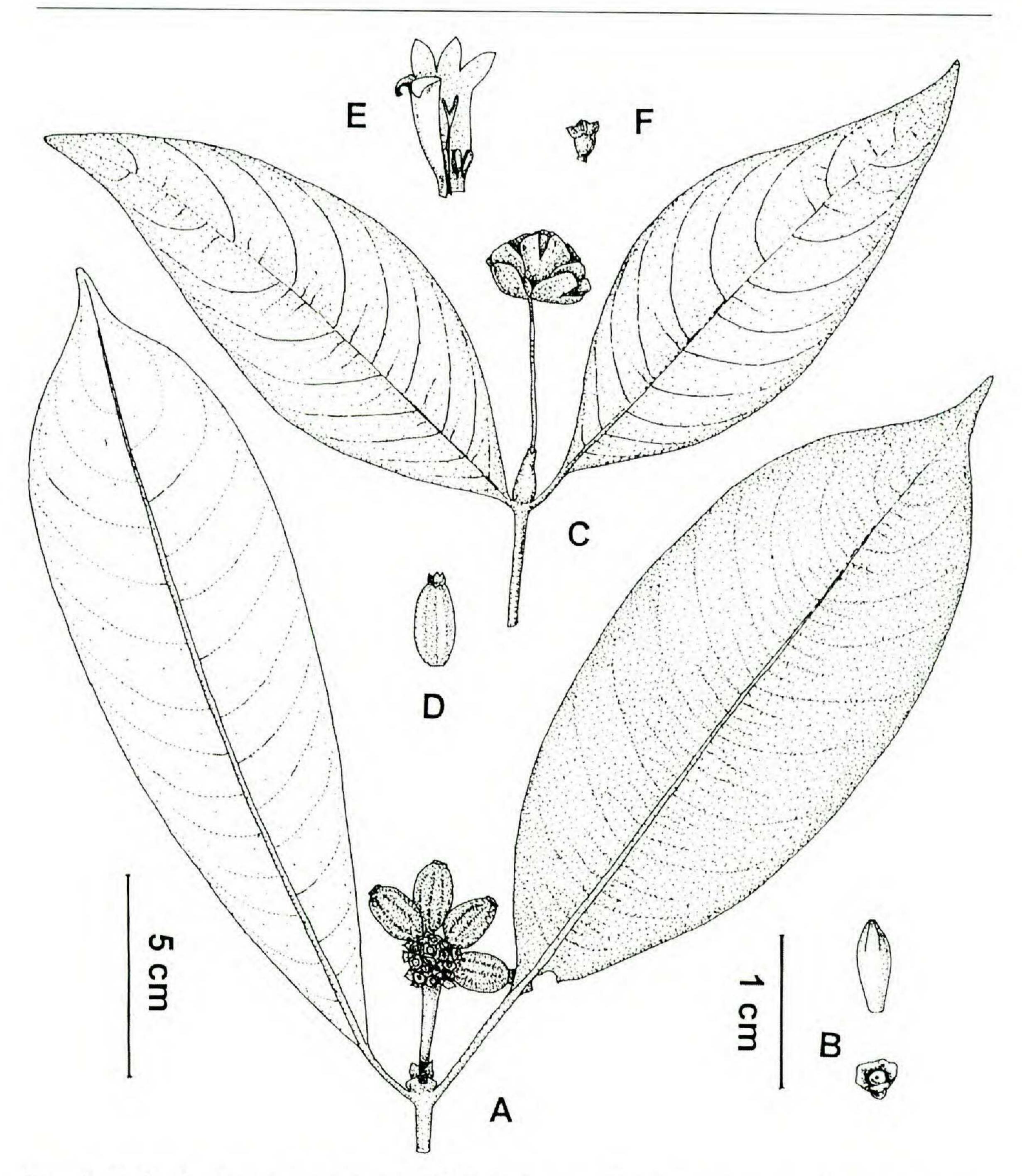


Fig. 2. A–B, *Psychotria hypochlorina* C.M. Taylor. A, Flowering branch. B, Flower bud, partially dissected. C–F, *Psychotria paeonia* C.M. Taylor. C, Flowering branch. D, Fruit. E, Corolla, partially dissected. F, Calyx limb and hypanthium. A, C, to 5-cm scale; B, D, E, F, to 1-cm scale. A, B, based on *Croat* 20513; C, based on *Harling & Ståhl* 26747; D, based on *Schunke* 5796; E, F, based on *Smith* 2438.

peduncles 1.2-5.5 cm long and stout, heads or panicles hemispherical to pyramidal, $1-2 \times 1-3$ cm excluding fruits, unbranched or sometimes with 1 pair of developed, stout secondary axes, with flowers sessile in glomerules of ca. 5-15; bracts glabrous, triangular to ovate, acute to acuminate, ciliolate,

apparently green, those subtending secondary axes and glomerules 5–8 mm long, those subtending flowers 3–5 mm long; *flowers* with hypanthium obconic, ca. 1 mm long, glabrous; *calyx* limb 1–1.2 mm long, glabrous, truncate or sometimes 5-denticulate; *corolla* in bud infundibuliform, greenish white to lilac, externally glabrous, lobes 5, triangular. *Infructescences* similar to inflorescences or with axes expanded; *fruits* ellipsoid, 15–16 x 10–11 mm, glabrous, becoming yellow-orange or orange then red then black, crowned by the persistent calyx; pyrenes 2, with 4–5 longitudinal ridges.

PARATYPES. PERU. Loreto. Prov. Maynas: Río Napo at Entrada de Isla Inayuga, Croat 20513 (MO); via Nauta-Iquitos, 3 km de Nauta, 04°30'S, 73°32'W, Díaz & Jaramillo 1260 (MO); Río Nanay, Caserio Mishana, 30 km SW of Iquitos, Foster 4230 (MO), 4368 (MO, NY); Mishana, Río Nanay halfway between Iquitos and Santa María de Nanay, near Campamento 1, Gentry et al. 36508 (MO); carretera Nauta-Iquitos, Km 4.5, 04°29'S, 73°35'W, Grández & Ruíz 2149 (MO); Mishana, 03°55'S, 73°35'W, Vásquez & Criollo 1775 (MO), Vásquez et al. 5340 (MO). Prov. Requena: without locality, Pereira et al. 106 (MO); distrito Sapuena, Poblado Jenaro Herrera, CIJH-IIAP, Acevedo & Daly 1602 (NY); Jenaro Herrera, Río Ucayali, 73°45'W, 04°55'S, Gentry et al. 56277 (MO); north vicinity of Requena, Chacra Canamá, east side of river, Mathias & Taylor 5540 (MO); Requena, Chacra Canamá, J. Schunke Vigo 6248 (MO); south of Requena, J. Schunke Vigo 6253 (MO); alrededores de Requena, 05°05'S, 73°50'W, Vásquez & Jaramillo 4729 (MO). Prov. Ucayali: Canchahuayo (Río Ucayali), 07°05'S, 75°10'W, Vásquez et al. 6967A (MO).

Distribution and Habitat.—Wet forest at 125–500 mm, northeastern to east-central Peru, frequently on sandy soils; collected in flower November, in fruit February–September and November–December.

This new species is distinguished by its leaves with the lower (abaxial) surface drying markedly paler than the upper (adaxial) surface and the venation hardly visible, subcapitate to shortly branched inflorescences, truncate relatively well developed calyx limb, and relatively large fruits. The specific epithet refers to the unusual drying color of the abaxial leaf surface, which is distinctive and is also found in a few other, apparently related species of *Psychotria* Subg. *Heteropsychotria*. These species also share similar leaf venation characters, inflorescence morphology, and relatively large fruits. Steyermark treated the species of this group from northeastern South America in Section *Pseudocephaelis* Steyerm., Series *Appunianae* Steyerm. These have been frequently confused, but can be separated according to the key below.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *PSYCHOTRIA* SUBG. *HETEROPSYCHOTRIA* SECT. *PSEUDOCEPHAELIS*, SERIES *APPUNIANAE*

1. Inflorescences umbelliform, with secondary axes 3–5, all produced from first node and equal in length to primary axis P. conephoroides (Rusby) C.M. Taylor

1. Inflorescences capitate or pyramidal, with secondary axes 1–2 pairs and shorter than the primary axis, so the structure is pyramidal.

2. Stipules 11–15 mm long, with	lobes 1/2 or more of this length
	P. tepuiensis (Steyerm.) Steyerm.
2. Stipules 3–8 mm long, with lo	
	y axes clearly developed, the primary axis
with at least one internode >	
4. Reticulate minor venation	n evident on lower (abaxial) leaf surface
	P. transiens Wernham
	lary veins evident on lower (abaxial) leaf
surface but reticulate min	
	ntersecondary vein present between pairs
of secondary veins; grov	ving at 100–1,200 m
	P. cordobensis C.M. Taylor
	secondary veins present between pairs of
secondary veins; growin	ig at 1,500–2,050 m
	P. jervisei (Standley) C.M. Taylor
3. Inflorescences capitate or wit	h secondary axes developed, the primary
axis with internodes all < 1 c	
	to once branched, with bracts subtend-
	rmost bracts of head triangular to ovate,
acute, 5–8 mm long; pedi	uncles 1.2-5.5 cm long; leaves with re-
	et evident on lower surface
/ T (1	P. hypochlorina C.M. Taylor
6. Inflorescences capitate, uni	oranched, with outermost bracts ovate to
suborbicular or oblong, act	ite to obtuse to rounded, 5–14 mm long;
	or venation evident on lower surface.
	m long; peduncle 2.5–9 cm long; stipules
	ern to central South America
	P. costanensis Steyerm.
	nm long; peduncles 1–5 cm long; stipules
	South America
	P. cuatrecasasii (Standl. ex Steyerm.) C.M. Taylor
(perr	naps not distinct from P. costanensis, see Taylor 1994)

Psychotria paeonia C.M. Taylor, sp. nov. (Fig. 2C–F). Type: PERU. Amazonas: alrededor de Yucui Entsa, 6 horas de Pongo por el Camino de Kusu, 1,200–2,000 m, 11 Mar 1973, *R. Kayap 550* (HOLOTYPE: MO-5079651; ISOTYPE: GB).

Haec species a *Psychotria adenophora* Steyerm. stipulis 8–15 mm longis atque inflorescentiae bracteis externis 10–15 mm longis distinguitur.

Shrubs and subshrubs flowering at 0.7 m tall, to 2.5 m tall; stems quadrate becoming terete, glabrous. *Leaves* paired; *blades* elliptic to somewhat lanceolate, 11–19 cm long, 3.5–8 cm wide, at apex acute to slightly acuminate, at base acute to cuneate, drying papyraceous, adaxially glabrous, abaxially puberulous and green or purple; secondary veins 9–12 pairs, extending nearly to margins and often uniting into a looping submarginal vein, with 1–3 weak intersecondary veins usually present between pairs of secondary veins, adaxially costa and secondary veins plane to thickened, abaxially costa prominulous and secondary veins a little thickened to

prominulous; petioles 5–15 mm long, glabrous; stipules glabrous, interpetiolar, lanceolate to ovate, 10–15 mm long, bilobed for ca. 1/8–1/4 of their length, the lobes triangular, acute, entire. Inflorescences terminal, perhaps deflexed, capitate to subcapitate, with peduncles 3-8.5 cm long, heads hemispherical to oblate, $1-2.5 \times 2-3.5$ cm, with flowers sessile in glomerules of 5-15; bracts glabrous, obtuse to rounded, entire, green becoming purple, those enclosing the inflorescence elliptic to suborbicular, 10-15 mm long, those subtending flowers elliptic to narrowly so or obovate to oblanceolate, 6-10 mm long; flowers with hypanthium obconic, ca. 1 mm long, glabrous; calyx limb glabrous, 0.8–1 mm long, lobed to base, lobes oblong to elliptic, obtuse to rounded; corolla funnelform, straight to a little swollen at base, straight to a little constricted near middle, and then spreading, white, externally glabrous, internally glabrous except for a zone of sparse pubescence from near middle to the base of the anthers, tube 7-8 mm long, 1-1.5 mm in diameter near base and 3–4 mm in diameter at mouth, lobes 5, 1.5-2 mm long, triangular; anthers in apparent long-styled form 1.5-2 mm long, positioned at or just below middle of tube; stigmas in apparent long-styled form linear, ca. 1 mm long, positioned at mouth of corolla tube; disk annular, ca. 0.5 mm high. Infructescences similar to inflorescence or becoming a little more expanded, with bracts purple; fruit ellipsoid, 5 × 2.5–3 mm, purple; pyrenes 2, with 3–5 low, rounded, longitudinal ridges.

Paratypes. COLOMBIA. Amazonas-Vaupés: Río Apaporis, Cachivera de Jirijirimo y alrededores, Schultes & Cabrera 12898 (COL). Antioquia: Municipio de San Carlos, Corregimiento Alto de Samaná, Vereda Miraflores, Fonnegra et al. 3039 (HUA, MO); Municipio de Amalfi, Vereda Peldar, Mina La Viborita, 06°55'N, 75°04'W, Fonnegra et al. 4516 (HUA, MO). ECUADOR. Morona-Santiago: 6 km E of Limón on road (under construction) to La Unión, Harling & Andersson 24481 (GB); end of road in construction Limón-La Unión, ca. 10 km from Limón, Harling & Ståhl 26722 (GB), 26747 (GB, S); Shuinia Nait, ca. 8 km SE of Misión Bomboiza, 03°30'S, 78°33'W, Holm-Nielsen et al. 4381 (AAU, S), 4382 (AAU, MO, S); about 1/2 hour by car along unfinished road E of El Limón, van der Werff & Palacios 10425 (MO). Zamora-Chinchipe: El Pangui Cantón, along road between Zamora and Gualaquiza, 70.9 km N of bridge over Río Zamora in Zamora, between Los Encuentros and El Pangui, 03°42'S, 78°25'S, Croat 72733 (MO); 3 km E Paquisha, Harling & Andersson 23964 (GB); Nangaritza Cantón. Pachicutza, camino al Hito, Cordillera del Cóndor, 04°07'S, 78°37'S, Palacios et al. 8321 (MO), 8372 (MO); hill about 2 km downstream from Campamento Shaime along Río Nangaritza, van der Werff et al. 13055 (MO). PERU. Amazonas. Prov. Condorcanqui: near Yuwi Inci Creek, 6 hours' walk from the Pongo Mori, Río Comaina, Berlin 958 (MO); Quebrada de Basusinuk, tributary of Huampami, Kayap 90 (MO); distrito El Cenepa, Región Nororiental del Marañon, Río Cenepa, comunidad Tutino, 04°33'S, 78°10'S, Vásquez et al. 18519 (MO), 18544 (MO). Cuzco. Prov. Paucartambo: Cosnipata Valley, Río Tono First, on road N of Patria, 13°07'S, 71°12'W, Wachter et al. 217 (F, MO). Huánuco. Prov. Leoncio Prado: E of Tingo María, J. Schunke Vigo 5796 (MO); distrito Rupa Rupa, E de Tingo María, cerca al Cerro Quemado, J. Schunke Vigo 9951 (MO). Pasco. Prov. Oxapampa: Pichis Valley, San Matias Ridges, 10–12 km SW of Puerto Bermúdez, above Santa Rosa de Chivis, trail to Loma Linda, 10°20'S, 75°00'S, Foster et al. 8987 (MO); W of Cordillera San Matias above Santa Rosa de Chivis, D. N. Smith et al. 2438 (MO). VENEZUELA. Mérida: Distrito Tovar, La Llorona, on road to Amparo, 08°22'N, 72°45'W, van der Werff & Ortíz 5752 (MO).

Distribution and Habitat.—Wet forest at 250–2,000 m, south-central Peru (Cuzco) to northwestern Colombia (Antioquia) and western Venezuela (Mérida); collected in flower February–April, September, November, and December, in fruit February, April, June, July, October, and November.

This species is distinguished by its lanceolate to ovate, interpetiolar stipules that are 10–15 mm long and shortly bilobed, capitate to subcapitate inflorescences with obtuse to rounded bracts that are green when the flowers start blooming and become purple as the fruits develop, funnelform white corollas with tubes 7–8 mm long, and rather narrow fruits. The specific epithet refers to the general aspect of the inflorescences and infructescences, which are reminiscent of flowers of *Paeonia* (Ranunculaceae).

Within Subg. *Heteropsychotria*, this new species is similar to *Psychotria* adenophora Steyerm. and *P. ostreophora* (Standley) C.M. Taylor (syn., *P. lucentifolia* (Blake) Steyerm.): both of these latter species can be distinguished by their stipules with truncate sheaths 0.5–1 mm long and slender lobes 0.5–12 mm long.

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